

holes 210a, 210b, respectively, and impinge upon phosphor regions 222a, 222b. A spacer 230 is formed between the anode 221 and the cathode such that the spacer 230 contacts the anode 230 and conducting layer 218.

The Office Action acknowledges that *Duboc* fails to teach that a mesh grid can be adhered to a cathode plate due to a negative pressure existing between an anode plate and a cathode plate, as recited in claim 1. In an effort to remedy this deficiency, the Office Action relies on Applicants' disclosure at page 3, lines 7-12.

In the previous response, Applicants argued that the grid 210 of *Duboc, Jr.* is not analogous to the mesh grid as claimed at least because it is a rigid structure composed of alternating conducting and insulating layers. The current Office Action fails to explicitly address this previous argument, but maintains the assertion that the grid structure of *Duboc, Jr.* is equivalent to the mesh grid recited in claim 1. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that accepting that the grid 210 of *Duboc, Jr.* can be reasonably interpreted as a mesh grid, the Office Action still has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The portion of Applicants' disclosure cited by the Office Action states, "[s]ince a space between the cathode plate 10 and the anode plate 20 is a vacuum, the cathode plate 10 and the anode plate 20 are firmly coupled together with the spacers 30 there between due to a negative pressure in the vacuum space." Applicants respectfully point out that this portion of Applicants' disclosure does not teach or suggest that a *mesh grid* may be *adhered* to a cathode plate due to a negative pressure in the vacuum space as alleged by the Office Action. Rather, this portion of the Specification discusses the coupling between the anode plate and the cathode plate due to the negative pressure in the vacuum space. More importantly, Figure 1A, in which this portion of the Specification is directed, illustrates that the mesh grid 40 is located in the space between the cathode plate 10 and the anode plate 20 and is adhered to the spacers 30 through binding material 43. Based on the configuration illustrated in Figure 1A, it should be readily apparent that the mesh grid is not adhered to a cathode plate by a negative pressure, and is in fact adhered to spacers 30 through a binding material, thereby providing further evidence that Applicants' stated prior art disclosure does not achieve the claimed features. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the interpretation of Applicants'

disclosure as stated in the Office Action is inaccurate. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Moreover, obviousness "cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination." ACS Hosp. Sys. V. Montefiore Hosp., 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn, and this claim be allowed.

Further, the applied art, whether alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present claims, e.g., the claimed feature of, *inter alia*, "a mesh grid...adhered to the cathode plate,...spacers provided between the anode plate and the mesh grid so that the mesh grid can be adhered to the cathode plate due to a negative pressure existing between the anode plate and the cathode plate." As such a *prima facie* cannot be sustained.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1. By virtue of these dependencies, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1. In addition, Applicants submit that claims 2-6 are further distinguishable over *Duboc, Jr.* by the additional elements recited therein. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection of claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

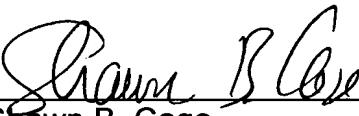
Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event the instant application can be placed in even better form, Applicants request that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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